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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2144**

HF/2177  
61

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 09/693,673

Filed: October 19, 2000

## Inventors:

Thomas E. Saulpaugh

Gregory L. Slaughter

Eric Pouyoul

**Title:** Message Gates Using a Shared Transport in a Distributed Computing Environment

Examiner: Maniwang, Joseph R  
Group/Art Unit: 2144  
Atty. Dkt. No: 5181-64200

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Robert C. Kowert

**Name of Registered Representative**

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July 13, 2004

**RESPONSE TO FINAL ACTION OF  
MAY 14, 2004**

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## Technology Center 2100

OK TO ENTER J

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Final Action of May 14, 2004, to further highlight why the application is in condition for allowance.